

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to fusion proteins that can be used to assay gene transfer and expression both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. The fusion proteins contain a reporter protein, *e.g.* a somatostatin receptor, fused to a second protein, which may be a protein fusion tag. Alternatively, a fusion protein may be fused to a leader sequence. A leader sequence may localize an expressed protein, *e.g.* localize a fusion protein to the cell membrane. The invention includes nucleic acids encoding the fusion proteins and methods of assaying for gene expression.